**Month of January**

**The 29th Day**

**Synaxis of the Saints of Ekaterinburg**

*This Service is written to the acrostic: “The Reader Peter humbly chanteth praise to the assembly of the saints of Ekaterinburg”.*

**At Great Vespers**

*After the Introductory Psalm, we chant “Blessed is the man…”, the first antiphon.*

*On “Lord, I have cried…”, 8 stichera, in Tone IV—*

Come, ye assemblies of the Orthodox, let us raise hymns of laudation to all the saints who have shone forth in the land of Ekaterinburg, who were adorned by Christ our God, the Judge of the contest, with a crown of glory. Wherefore, let us praise their God-pleasing struggles, which were undertaken out of love for God and neighbor, and let us all cry out together: Pray ye to the Lord, O saints, that He remit our transgressions and save us, for the sake of His great mercy. *Twice*

O saints of the Church of Ekaterinburg, who out of your earthly homeland honorably received the adoption of the heavenly homeland, the Church of Russia now praiseth you as is meet; for, having reached the end of your virtuous life on earth, with the teaching of divine knowledge ye instruct us. O all-wondrous wellsprings of miracles, radiant stars adorning the heaven of the Church and beautifying Russia and the whole world, free us from all grave perils and the temptations of the enemy, praying in behalf of our souls. *Twice*

Imitating the ineffable patience and all-glorious labors of Christ, ye passed your life in much patience and great labor, O honorable scions of the land of Ekaterinburg divinely sprung forth. Wherefore, celebrating now the memory of all ascetics, we all cry out together: Rejoice, ye who by the narrow path of your life all-gloriously traversed the expanse of the kingdom of heaven! *Twice*

The Church of Ekaterinburg was like a most fertile garden, whence a multitude of saints issued forth; and celebrating their solemnity today, as a memorial we cite their honored struggles for God, and we gain instruction from them, desiring to receive a share of their virtues; and, aware of our own spiritual poverty, we humbly cry out to those holy ones: Pray for us to the Lord, that we may elude the pursuit of the evil one, and by your honorable intercession may gain entry to the kingdom of heaven! *Twice*

*Glory, in Tone V—*

With all your soul ye followed the Lamb of God, ye who were sanctified by the divine Spirit, and ye piously finished your life on earth, O martyrs, confessors, ye blessed and righteous ones, and all ye favorites of God, boast of the land of Ekaterinburg and all-glorious joy of all Russia. Ye who stand today before the throne of the Holy Trinity, illumined by the ineffable splendors of never-waning Light, enlighten therewith us who celebrate your honored memorial, and pray ye unceasingly that we be granted peace and great mercy.

*Now & ever…: Dogmatic theotokion, in the same tone—*

Once, the image of the Bride who knoweth not wedlock was inscribed in the Red Sea. There, Moses was the parter of the waters; and here Gabriel is the minister of a miracle. There, Israel traversed the deep dryshod; and now the Virgin giveth birth unto Christ without seed. The sea remained impassible after Israel had crossed; and the immaculate one remaineth incorrupt after the birth of Emmanuel. O God Who hast appeared as a man, Who existest and hast existed from the beginning: Have mercy upon us!

*Entrance. Prokimenon of the day. Three readings:*

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Thus saith the Lord: “All the nations are gathered together, and princes shall be gathered out of them. Who will declare these things, or who will let them bring forth their witnesses, and be justified; and let them hear, and declare the truth? Be ye My witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know, and believe, and understand that I am He: before Me there was no other God, and after Me there shall be none. I am God; and beside Me there is no Savior. I have declared, and have saved; I have reproached, and there was no strange god among you. Ye are My witnesses, and I am the Lord God, even from the beginning: and there is none who can deliver out of My hands. I will work, and who shall turn it back?” Thus saith the Lord God Who redeemeth you, the Holy One of Israel.

A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for Himself. As gold in the furnace hath He tried them and received them as a burnt offering. And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever. They who put their trust in Him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him: for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He hath care for His elect.

A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The righteous live for evermore; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High. Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord’s hand: for with His right hand shall He cover them, and with His arm shall He protect them. He shall take to Him His jealousy for complete armor, and make the creature His weapon for the revenge of His enemies. He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate, and true judgment instead of a helmet. He shall take holiness for an invincible shield. His severe wrath shall He sharpen for a sword, and the world shall fight with Him against the unwise. Then shall the right-aiming thunderbolts go abroad; and from the clouds, as from a well-drawn bow, shall they fly to the mark. And hailstones full of wrath shall be cast as out of a stone bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them. Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away: thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty. Hear, therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, ye that rule the people, and glory in the multitude of nations. For power is given you of the Lord, and sovereignty from the Most High.

*At Litia, these stichera, in Tone VI—*

Ye most laudably imitated the passage of the love of Christ from the things of earth to those of heaven, O saints of the land of Ekaterinburg, for ye engraved the law of Christ upon the tablets of your hearts, and have called all to live thus. Wherefore, celebrating your most laudable memorial, we entreat you: Pray unceasingly to the Lord, that He make us steadfast by His invisible power from on high, that we may stand against the world, the flesh and the devil, and having vanquished them, may receive a crown from the hand of the Savior in the kingdom of heaven.

Shown to be made steadfast by grace divine, ye thirsted for the heavenly land of righteousness and hungered for the preëternal Truth; wherefore, fulfilling the command of the Savior for a holy and blameless life, to become a perfect image of the heavenly Father, ye completed the time of your earthly sojourn in holiness. For this cause the heavenly assembly of all the saints doth welcome your souls with joy into its bosom. Surrounding the throne of God with them, pray ye unceasingly in behalf of us all.

*Glory…, in Tone III—*

The power of God that is perfected in weakness prepared for you a heavenly reward in your earthly struggles, all ye saints of Ekaterinburg; for, having lived in holiness and righteousness, ye attained a death that was like an entry into heaven: wherefore, ye stand before the throne of God. For this cause we beseech you: Accept the entreaties of your faithful children, that we may be delivered from the snares of the enemy, from evil temptations and grievous infirmities; for we have acquired you as fervent mediators before the Lord.

*Now & ever…: Theotokion, in the same tone—*

Through the divine Spirit, by the will of the Father, without seed thou didst conceive the Son of God Who hath existed without mother from before the ages, and for our sake thou gavest birth in the flesh unto Him Who came forth from thee without father; and thou didst nurture Him on milk as a babe. Wherefore, cease not to pray, that our souls be delivered from tribulations.

*Aposticha stichera, in Tone IV—*

Having a cloud of witnesses overshadowing us, the glorious offspring of the land of Ekaterinburg, who, in the words of the apostle, were obedient in faith and offered unto the Lord fruit a hundredfold in patience, O brethren, let us also steadily run the race set for us, looking to the Lord Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, and let us be strengthened by the heavenly mediation of these saints, and, celebrating their memory, let us cry out together: Pray ye in behalf of our souls!

*Stichos:* O Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is Thy name in all the earth.

Celebrating now the memorial of the God-bearing passion-bearers, the venerable and the righteous, and all the saints who have shone forth in the land of Ekaterinburg, O brethren, let us enter into joy today; for, lo! the Church of Russia doth celebrate their most laudable synaxis, teaching us piously their evangelical way of life following God.

*Stichos:* In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous; He hath wrought all His desires in them.

Hallowed by the heavenly rays of the Holy Spirit from on high, O holy passion-bearers, confessors, ye venerable, righteous and blessed ones, who within the precincts of Ekaterinburg were well-pleasing unto the Lord, offer up supplications for the place where ye struggled, that those who dwell therein may receive the fullness of all grace, and that peace and piety may abide there unshakably, that those who dwell therein in all piety and purity may find unimpeded access to the kingdom of heaven.

*Glory…, in the same tone—*

Rejoice, mighty preservers and helpers of the land of Ekaterinburg, ye passion-bearers of Christ, confessors, righteous and all other saints, unmercenary physicians of the sick, speedy liberators of all those in peril, feeders of the hungry and givers of vesture to the naked, ye who aided all in every need: Be for us an impregnable bulwark and fervent mediators for the whole world.

*Now & ever…: Theotokion, in the same tone—*

Preserve thy servants from all misfortunes, O blessed Theotokos, that we may all glorify thee, the hope of our souls.

*At the Blessing of the Loaves, the troparion of the Synaxis of the Saints of Ekaterinburg, in Tone IV—*

The Holy Church is adorned today, celebrating the synaxis of the saints of the land of Ekaterinburg, and it is enlightened radiantly on their memorial as with rays, calling all to tread the paths of their honorable way of life, and to work out their own salvation in patience; wherefore, hastening to them with faith, we cry aloud: Pray ye to the Lord, that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls! *Twice*

*And “Virgin Theotokos, rejoice…”, once.*

**At Matins**

*At “God is the Lord…”, the troparion of the saints, twice; Glory…, Now & ever…: Resurrectional theotokion, in the same tone.*

*After the first reading of the Psalter, this sessional hymn, in Tone I—*

Causing the effulgence of Christ, the Sun of righteousness, to dwell in your hearts, ye shone forth like candles on an altar, O saints of Ekaterinburg; for this cause faithful people keep festival on your memorial, the heavens rejoice, and the ends of the earth celebrate. Wherefore, pray ye to the Lord in our behalf. *Twice*

*Glory…, Now & ever…: Theotokion—*

Committing thyself wholly to the will of God, O most immaculate Virgin, thou gavest birth unto the Son of God without corruption; wherefore, O Theotokos, pray thou for the people whom thy Son hath committed to thine aid.

*After the second reading of the Psalter, this sessional hymn, in Tone II—*

Ye grew like a multitude of fragrant flowers, O saints of Ekaterinburg; wherefore, streams of Orthodox faithful hasten to you in great numbers, begging the peace of the Most High for the world and gifts of salvation and grace for the benefit of their souls and bodies. *Twice*

*Glory…, Now & ever…: Theotokion—*

In giving birth incomprehensibly to the Creator of all things, O all-immaculate Virgin, thou once didst wound the head of the ancient serpent and didst most gloriously crush the dominion of the tyrants of falsehood. And standing now at the right hand of the throne of thy Son, pray that we be saved who honor thee with faith and love.

*Polyeleos, and this magnification—*

We magnify you, O all ye saints who shone forth in the land of Ekaterinburg, and we honor your holy memory, for ye entreat Christ our God in our behalf.

*Selected Psalm verses—*

A Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world. [Ps. 48: 2]

B My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. [Ps. 48: 4]

A Come, ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. [Ps. 33: 12]

B I have proclaimed the good tidings of Thy righteousness in the great congregation. [Ps. 39: 10]

A Thy truth and Thy salvation have I declared. [Ps. 39: 11]

B I will declare Thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I hymn Thee. [Ps. 21: 23]

A That I may hear the voice of Thy praise, and tell of all Thy wondrous works.

[Ps. 25: 7]

B O Lord, I have loved the beauty of Thy house, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth. [Ps. 25: 8]

A I have hated the congregation of evil-doers, and with the ungodly will I not sit.

[Ps. 25: 5]

B For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and I have not acted impiously toward my God. [Ps. 17: 22]

A The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment. [Ps. 36: 30]

B His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. [Ps. 110: 3]

A Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

[Ps. 131: 9]

B Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house; unto ages of ages shall they praise Thee.

[Ps. 83: 5]

Glory…, Now & ever…

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! *Thrice*

*After the Polyeleos, this sessional hymn, in Tone V—*

Thou wast shown to be a true, noetic garden of the Holy Spirit, O glorious land of Ekaterinburg, for in thee the Lord gathered in many glorious passion-bearers, confessors, venerable and righteous ones, and multitudes of many other saints, like fruits; wherefore, having so great a cloud of witnesses, ye faithful, let us imitate their glorious work for God, that, even after our passage from the things of earth to those of heaven, we may receive a share of incorrupt good things. *Twice*

*Glory…, Now & ever…: Theotokion—*

O all-pure one who art holier than the cherubim and beyond compare more exalted than the seraphim: confessing thee to be the true Theotokos, we sinners have thee as our helper, and find thee to be our salvation in time of perils. Wherefore, cease not to pray for us, thou might and refuge of our souls.

*Song of Ascents, the first antiphon of Tone IV.*

*Prokimenon, in Tone IV—*

Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

*Stichos:* In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the wellsprings of Israel.

Gospel according to Matthew, §11

The Lord said to His disciples: “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

*After Psalm 50—*

*Glory…:* Through the prayers of the assembly of the saints of the land of Ekaterinburg, O Merciful One, wash away the multitude of our offenses.

*Now & ever…:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos…

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy…

*And this sticheron, in Tone VI—*

Having taken the yoke of Christ upon your shoulders, ye trod the narrow path to enter the kingdom of God; and ye join chorus now in never-waning light with the angelic armies, gazing upon the supernatural glory of God. Forsake us not in your love, O saints of the Church of Ekaterinburg, calling down upon us great and rich mercies.

*Canon of Supplication to the Theotokos [the Paraclesis], with 6 troparia, including the irmos; and this canon of the saints of Ekaterinburg, with 8 troparia.*

Ode I

*Irmos:* Having suddenly passed through the sea with dusty feet, as through a desert, Israel cried aloud: Let us sing a new song unto the Lord our God, Who is mighty in battles!

*Refrain:* O all ye saints of the land of Ekaterinburg, pray to God for us!

Ye faithful people, let us make haste to invoke in prayer the assembly of the saints of the land of Ekaterinburg, that by their mediation we may receive all things soever that are beneficial. For this cause, beginning this hymnody, let us cry out thus unto the Lord: O God, grant us understanding and power, that today we may complete well that which we desire.

Setting the Cross of Christ upon thy shoulder, O holy Symeon of Verkhoturye, with gladsome feet thou didst pass over unto rest from thy labors; wherefore, thou standest before the throne of God, wearing a victor’s wreath upon thy head, and chanting unto the Lord: For me wast Thou a helper and protector unto salvation!

Ye now hold angelic festival, O venerable Basiliscus of Siberia, and Zosimas, thou offering from Smolensk to the Church of Ekaterinburg; for having lived a holy life with great patience and prudent discernment of those things that are profitable, ye pray for us to the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified.

*Theotokion:* By thy birthgiving, O Mother of God, thou didst free the human race from the workings of myriad demons, for thou gavest birth to Christ, the true Light; wherefore, haste thou to set at naught the zeal of the unclean spirits, driving them far away with the fire of divine light.

*Katavasiæ:* The irmoi of the canon of the Meeting of the Lord.

Ode III

*Irmos:* Make me noetically like unto Mount Sion, O Christ, exalting and establishing me in trust in Thee, and pouring forth upon me the dew of grace, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Seeking the one thing needful, thou didst deprive thyself of an earthly kingdom, O holy passion-bearer Nicholas; yet in heaven thou didst acquire glory beyond that of earthly kings: wherefore, having through patience obtained a crown of victory over thine enemies, rejoicing thou didst stand before thy Redeemer, offering up the feat of the shedding of thy blood. Pray thou for all who call upon thee in prayer.

Rejoice with thy children Alexis, Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, O Alexandra, spouse of the royal passion-bearer, for ye were truly like a little Church, following the head thereof in all circumstances that befell you. Wherefore, together ye received beauteous and glorious entry into heaven; and now, wearing crowns of martyrdom upon your heads, pray ye to the Lord, that He increase faith and piety in your land.

Ye maintained loyalty to the Truth until the end, and adorned crowns of holiness with the blood of martyrdom, O Elizabeth and Barbara; wherefore, exchanging corruptible things for those that are incorrupt, ye betrothed yourselves unto the Lord in all things. Entreat Him to increase faith and piety in our land.

*Theotokion:* O Queen of the New Israel, Mother of our only Redeemer, Virgin Theotokos, thou hast not disdained the land of Russia, but, after the abdication of Tsar Nicholas from his earthly kingdom, with thy mighty hand thou didst thyself take the scepter of authority, all-wondrously bestowing the Reigning Icon in token thereof. Wherefore, we beseech thee: In thy land bring low the enemies of the righteousness of God!

*Sessional hymn, in Tone III—*

Having pleased God by the manner of your life and death, O saints of Ekaterinburg, ye have made your abode in the land of the righteous, the kingdom of heaven, where ye delight in the ineffable good things that the Lord hath prepared for those who love Him, which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man. Wherefore, intercede now for us before the Lord!

*Glory…, Now & ever…: Theotokion—*

As thou hast maternal boldness before thy Son, O most immaculate Mistress, enliven my soul, which hath been slain by many offenses; for thou alone gavest birth, in manner past understanding and comprehension, to the Word, Who with the Father and the Spirit is without beginning, and Who ever granteth life, incorruption and great mercy to the world.

Ode IV

*Irmos:* I heard report of Thee, O Lord, and was afraid; I understood Thy works, and was filled with awe: for Thou appearest between two living creatures, unto the salvation of our souls.

Diligently didst thou follow the Lord, O hieromartyr Arcadius, for having sat upon the heights of the throne of the apostles, thou didst show thyself to be an excellent contender against schism and godlessness; and offering unto God the unbloody Sacrifice, rejoicing, thou didst offer up the blood of thy torment before the throne of the Chief Shepherd: wherefore, thou hast been reckoned as a diamond in the crown of the Church of Ekaterinburg. Pray thou unceasingly in behalf of us all.

Ye rend asunder the spider’s web of the passions and didst break the bonds of the demons’ wiles, O glorious and venerable Elijah and Arethas, with the blessed Cosmas and John of Verkhoturye; wherefore, in the paradise of delight ye receive today a just reward. Pray ye unceasingly in behalf of us all.

Ye have now received life everlasting, O glorious Joseph of Verkhny Tagil, Peter of Kochnevskoye and Paul of Novoütkinsk; for, having proclaimed the Gospel with your words, by your martyric death, as with an indelible seal, ye confirmed the truth thereof. Pray ye unceasingly in behalf of us all.

*Theotokion:* Thou didst most wisely serve the incarnation of the Son of God, O Mother of God; wherefore, the armies of heaven glorify thee as is meet, and we born on earth, composing humble hymns, find ourselves to be like mute fish. Yet by thine omnipotent intercession, O Theotokos, gain for us remission of sins from the Lord.

Ode V

*Irmos:* O good Christ, Bestower of light and peace, from darkness and the warfare of the passions deliver me who rise early to Thy praise.

How shall we praise you, O glorious deacons John of Staropyshminsk and Vyacheslav of Nev’yansk? For, imitating the protomartyr and archdeacon Stephen, ye were unjustly slain for the Faith; wherefore, counted among the company of martyrs in heaven, pray ye for all who honor you with faith.

Manifestly showing forth the truth of the glad tidings of Christ by the honored shedding of your blood, O hieromartyrs Vladimir of Tupitsynsky, John of Fed’kovskaya and Peter of Nev’yansk, ye received twofold reward from the Lord: for a goodly priesthood and a glorious martyrdom. Pray ye for all who honor you with faith.

As faithful imitators of Christ, O hieromartyrs Sergius of Nizhny Tagil, Constantine of Merkushino and Nicholas of Koptelovo, ye have flourished like palm-trees in the heavenly homeland; for, having rejected the godless authorities, today ye receive just reward from the authority of God. Pray ye for all who honor you with faith.

*Theotokion:* As thou art higher in honor than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim, O Virgin Mother Theotokos, ask of thy Son and our God a share of divine grace for all who with ardent faith hasten to thine intercession.

Ode VI

*Irmos:* As Thou didst lead the Prophet Jonah up out of the sea monster, O Lord, deliver me from the pursuit of the alien one, and save me, O Compassionate One, in that Thou art greatly merciful.

By faithful service to God ye escaped the darkness of destruction, O hieromartyrs John and Joasaph of Mironovo with Paul of Murzinka; and having attained unto the divine Light, ye stand before the throne of God in heaven as is meet; wherefore, shine forth from thence gifts of grace upon those who fervently have recourse to your aid.

Ye cut off the sinful urge of fallen nature, O venerable martyrs of Verkhoturye—Apollinarius, Hyacinth and Callixtus; wherefore, having for Christ shed your blood upon the ground, like wondrous birds of paradise ye soared aloft to the meadows of heavenly light; and standing before the Lord therein today, by your mediation ye obtain wondrous aid for those who honor you.

Ye were faithful servants of the Church of Christ, O hieromartyrs Peter and Alexis of Verkhne-Stadlinsky and the most lauded venerable martyr Benjamin of Verkhoturye; for, having received spiritual zeal, ye made your hearts steadfast by the power of the Almighty. Send down a share of that bestowal upon us, we pray with faith and love.

*Theotokion:* O all-pure Mother of God, hope of Christians, by the power of thy glorious mediation may the Lord grant us forgiveness and mercy; and with power from on high may He renew and confirm in us faithfulness to Him: for even though we have sinned against Him, yet know we not any other God.

*Kontakion, in Tone III: Spec. Mel.: “Today, the Virgin…”—*

Today, the honored council of the saints standeth in the midst of the Church and invisibly prayeth to God for us: passion-bearers and the venerable offer worship, the confessors and the righteous join chorus with the blessed. All the saints of the Church hold festival, and the flock of the land of Ekaterinburg rejoiceth; for together they all entreat the preëternal God.

*Ikos:*  Having strengthened yourselves with steadfast faith, O saints of Ekaterinburg, ye overcame the darkness of this earthly, most lamentable and greatly onerous life, being counted among the company of the children of God. Wherefore, accept the offering of our infirmity, and guide us to the true Faith and the God-pleasing life, that having received the kingdom of God through your fervent intercession, we may be found worthy to dwell with you in eternal bliss and great joy. For this cause, blessing your honored memory, we cry out to you hymns of laudation: Rejoice, O our helpers, glory and adornment of all Russia!

Ode VII

*Irmos:* O Lord, make us imitators of Thy three youths, opposing sin, trampling the fire of the passions underfoot, and chanting: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Ye broke through the insolent arrogance of atheism, O holy and glorious hieromartyrs Alexis of Nitsinsk, Constantine of Artemovo and Platon of Pokrovsk; for having conquered faithlessness with faith, ye attained unto the expanse of the kingdom of God: wherefore, together we cry out: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Through death ye gained access to life everlasting, O holy hieromartyrs Stephen of Krasnoslobodsk, Constantine of Rodnikovo and Peter of Bol’shetrifonovsk; since, in the words of the apostle, for you to live is Christ and to die is gain. Wherefore, rejoicing, we cry out: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Gloriously escaping the pursuit of this corrupt world, O venerable martyr John of Verkhoturye and martyred deacons Alexander of Bol’shetrifonovsk and Nicholas of Shogrinsk, ye inherited the kingdom of God; wherefore, as ones right victorious, ask the Lord to grant mercy to those who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

*Theotokion:* We know no more fervent intercessor for us before the Lord, O Theotokos; wherefore, open unto us the gates of thy loving-kindness and, stretching forth thine all-pure hands to thy Son, pray earnestly for us, that He have mercy on us sinners for the sake of His great mercy, and that He grant us entry into the kingdom of heaven.

Ode VIII

*Irmos:* “Heat ye the furnace sevenfold, until it burneth utterly!”, the tyrant cried to the Chaldæans; “and place therein Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who would not worship the golden image, but said: ‘We have a God in the heavens! Him will we serve and worship forever!’”

Slavery to the demons did ye flee with great wisdom, O hieromartyrs Basil and Peter of Kamensk-Ural’sk, together with Arcadius of Borovsk; wherefore, in heaven ye gloriously entered into the freedom of the children of God, exclaiming: “We have a God in the heavens! Him will we serve and worship forever!”

Having chosen that which was spiritually profitable, O hieromartyrs Basil of Kamyshlovo, Alexander of Tvaryansk and Constantine of Uëtsk, ye treated bodily harm as naught, exclaiming with boldness to the servants of the demons: “We have a God in the heavens! Him will we serve and worship forever!”

Having armed yourselves with goodly hope against your godless enemies, O hieromartyrs Constantine, Stephen, George and Nestor, by your wounds and blood ye won a glorious victory over your adversaries and gained entry into the paradise of delight, crying out: “We have a God in the heavens! Him will we serve and worship forever!”

*Theotokion:* We hymn thee unceasingly, O Theotokos, for, having wrought an excellent deed upon the earth, thou didst receive great glory in heaven. Spurn not our poor entreaty, but make haste to grant us that which is beneficial. Extend the grace of consolation unto us sinners for our needful correction, and never forsake us, O all-pure Theotokos.

Ode IX

*Irmos:* O Virgin, thou wast the instrument of the incarnation of God, and of the commingling of the Word in the flesh which He took from thee, His bridal-chamber; for in Him are united two natures, two energies and two wills. And praising Him, we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Preserve us from the snares of the devil, O holy hieromartyrs Basil of Taushkansk, Nicholas of Kamensk-Ural’sk and Alexis of Koriukovo, for, burning with supernatural love for God, ye utterly consumed the ancient foe of our race; and, having been crowned with wreaths of victory in heaven, pray ye for those who have recourse to you with love.

Having shunned that which is old and swiftly perisheth, O holy and glorious hieromartyrs Leo of Krasno-Ufimsk, Constantine of Troitsa and Theodore of Slobodoturinsk, ye were shown to be athletes of the new grace; wherefore, in the midst of the godless having kept the Faith until the end, and not quenching love unto the increase of iniquity, ye beheld the fulfillment of your goodly hope in Christ. And rejoicing today with the angelic choirs, pray ye for those who with faith and love honor your memory.

Departing this exceeding sorrowful life, by tasting martyrdom for Christ ye received a most joyous dwelling-place in the kingdom of heaven, O Alexander and Alexis, hieromartyrs of Krasnoüfimsk, and thou, O venerable martyr Alexander, joy of Byn’gi, Staropyshinsk, Revda, Ekaterinburg and Nev’yansk. Wherefore, pray for us who splendidly celebrate your memorial with faith and love.

*Theotokion:* Dry thou our bitter tears with the sweet breeze of thy supplication, O all-pure one; transform our sorrows into joy by thy mighty intercession for us before the Lord; and make steadfast the Orthodox Church, bringing order to the new and holy land of Ekaterinburg, to Russia and the whole world, by thy mediation.

*Exapostilarion—*

No mortal is able to explain the struggle of your labors or understand the gracious power given you by God; wherefore, O holy ones of Ekaterinburg, from on high look down on us who fervently have recourse to your aid. *Twice*

*Glory…, Now & ever…: Theotokion—*

In thee, O Theotokos, is the law of nature overcome, for He Whom the heavens cannot contain dwelt on earth within thy womb by the will of God, and thou gavest birth without corruption to the eternal Child, maintaining the seal of thy virginity. Wherefore, by the power of thy heavenly mediation protect all who chant unto thee.

*On the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone II—*

Praise, O faithful people. the magnificent multitude of the venerable ones of the land of Ekaterinburg, among whom are Basiliscus, Zosimas, Arethas and Elijah, for as all-wondrous and fragrant shoots they delight all by their struggles and teachings; and having struggled well and manfully upon the earth, they shine forth in heaven like the sun, and clearly show the path to the kingdom of God unto all who have recourse to them with faith and love. *Twice*

Ye received a place where the angels stand in heaven, O passion-bearers and confessors of the land of Ekaterinburg: Arcadius and many priests and deacons, monastics and laymen, among whom are the royal passion-bearers and the abbess Elizabeth, who are found to be like an excellent adornment; for having tasted of cruel torments and violent death, they overcame all with patience. Wherefore, they have received a heavenly habitation. For this cause we cry out to you together: Deliver us from the passions, from enemies and cruel death.

Having sought to be well pleasing to the one God, the righteous and blessed of the Church of Ekaterinburg, among whom Symeon, Cosmas and John, the glorious scions of Verkhoturye, excel, having labored for the Lord with zeal, and with gladsome steps have hastened up to the heavenly homeland, from thence they splendidly illumine all who keep their honored memory and celebrate their greatly patient life. For this cause, piously moved by heartfelt faith, let us say thus: Pray ye unceasingly to the Lord, that He grant us remission of sins and great mercy.

*Glory…, in Tone VI—*

Ye showed yourselves to be glorious servants of the Trinity, O all ye saints of the land of Ekaterinburg; for, having faithfully observed the commandments and precepts of the Lord, with all your difficult struggles ye showed forth zeal for the Holy Faith; wherefore, ye receive worthy recompense at the right hand of the throne of God, and ye gaze upon us all from thence. Pray ye to the Lord, that He grant us remission of sins and the fullness of all grace.

*Now & ever…: Theotokion, in the same tone—*

O Theotokos, thou art the true vine that budded forth for us the Fruit of life. Entreat Him with the holy apostles and all the saints, we pray thee, O Mistress, that our souls find mercy.

*Great Doxology. Troparion. Litanies. Dismissal. First Hour.*

**At Liturgy**

*On the Beatitudes, 8 troparia: 4 from Ode III and 4 from Ode VI of the saints’ canon.*

*Prokimenon, in Tone VIII—*

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous

*Stichos:* Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Epistle to the Galatians, § 213

Brethren: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

*Alleluia, in Tone IV—*

*Stichos:* The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

*Stichos:* Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

Gospel according to Matthew, §38

The Lord said to His disciples: “Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he who loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me.” Then answered Peter and said unto Him: “Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore?” And Jesus said unto them: “Verily, I say unto you, that ye who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many who are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.”

*Communion hymn—*

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

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